

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 STATE 191362 TOSEC 080339
ORIGIN PA-02

INFO OCT-01 SS-15 PRS-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 CCO-00 /019 R

DRAFTED BY PA/M: M D ROKEY
APPROVED BY PA/M: E G JACOBSON
S/S: A W OTTO
DESIRED DISTRIBUTION
PA, S/S, S/PRS

-----129425 121916Z /44
P 121828Z AUG 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

UNCLAS STATE 191362 TOSEC 080339

FOR CARTER FROM PA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN, OVIP (VANCE)

SUBJECT: PRESS MATERIAL

1. HERewith FULL TEXT NEW YORK TIMES ARTICLE, FRIDAY,
12 AUG, HEADED "WHITE HOUSE OPENS DRIVE TO WIN SENATE
APPROVAL OF CANAL ACCORD."

2. WASHINGTON, AUG 11--THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, WHICH
SEES THE FATE OF THE NEW PANAMA CANAL TREATY AS A MAJOR
TEST OF ITS ABILITY TO DEAL WITH CONGRESS ON MAJOR FOREIGN
POLICY ISSUES, HAS PLUNGED IMMEDIATELY INTO WHAT THE WHITE
HOUSE EXPECTS TO BE A TOUGH UPHILL FIGHT FOR SENATE
APPROVAL.

3. THE ADMINISTRATION FACES A DETERMINED OPPOSITION AND A
SKEPTICAL PUBLIC. ONE WHITE HOUSE SOURCE CONCEDED THAT AT
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 191362 TOSEC 080339

LEAST 25 SENATORS WOULD VOTE AGAINST THE TREATY NOW. A
TREATY REQUIRES THE APPROVAL OF AT LEAST TWO-THIRDS OF THE
SENATE.

4. THE ADMINISTRATION STRATEGY, WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS
SAID, NOT ONLY CALLS FOR THE PRESIDENT, CABINET MEMBERS
AND THE JOINT CHIEFS OF STAFF TO SPEAK OUT IN FAVOR OF THE

NEW AGREEMENT, BUT ALSO SEEKS TO DRAW ON PUBLIC SUPPORT FROM TOP REPUBLICAN SPOKESMEN, INCLUDING FORMER SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER, FORMER VICE PRESIDENT NELSON A. ROCKEFELLER, AND POSSIBLY EVEN FORMER PRESIDENT GERALD R. FORD.

5. ON THE EVE OF THE AGREEMENT ANNOUNCED IN PANAMA LAST NIGHT, PRESIDENT CARTER SENT A PERSONAL MESSAGE TO EACH MEMBER OF THE SENATE URGING THEM TO KEEP AN OPEN MIND ON THE ISSUE. IN THE LAST 24 HOURS, WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT AIDES HAVE ALSO TRIED TO REACH SENATORS BY TELEPHONE TO BRIEF THEM ON THE TERMS OF THE AGREEMENT AND TO REINFORCE THE PRESIDENT'S APPEAL.

6. "IT'S A TOUGH FIGHT BUT IT'S POSSIBLE TO WIN," WAS THE CAREFUL ASSESSMENT OF SENATOR ALAN CRANSTON, THE SENATE DEMOCRATIC WHIP FROM CALIFORNIA, WHO HAS BEEN WORKING IN RECENT WEEKS TO DEVELOP SENATE SUPPORT FOR A NEW CANAL TREATY.

7. ROBERT BYRD, THE SENATE MAJORITY LEADER, WHO IS VACATIONING IN WEST VIRGINIA, PUT OUT AN EVEN MORE CAUTIOUS FORECAST THROUGH A SPOKESMAN. "IT'S TOO EARLY TO SPECULATE ON WHAT THE SENATE IS GOING TO DO." HE SAID. "(THE TREATY) HAS AN UPHILL ROAD TO TRAVEL. THE PRESIDENT SHOULD HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO TAKE IT TO THE COUNTRY."
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 STATE 191362 TOSEC 080339

8. SENATOR BYRD IS REGARDED AS A CRITICAL, POTENTIAL SWING VOTE BECAUSE TWO YEARS AGO HE JOINED 38 OTHER SENATORS IN SIGNING A RESOLUTION SUBMITTED BY SENATOR STROM THURMOND, REPUBLICAN OF SOUTH CAROLINA, OPPOSING ANY SURRENDER OF "SOVEREIGN RIGHTS AND JURISDICTION" OVER THE CANAL.

9. TODAY, MR. BYRD, WHO HAS BEEN THE TARGET OF CONSIDERABLE WHITE HOUSE AND STATE DEPARTMENT LOBBYING IN RECENT WEEKS, SAID HE NOW HAD "AN OPEN MIND" ON THE ISSUE. "I WANT TO THOROUGHLY DIGEST THE HEARINGS BEFORE I MAKE ANY DECISION," HE SAID.

10. SENATOR THURMOND, WHO IS EXPECTED TO LEAD THE REPUBLICAN OPPONENTS OF THE TREATY, DECLARED TODAY THAT HE WOULD "EXERT EVERY EFFORT POSSIBLE TO PREVENT THE SURRENDER OF THE PANAMA CANAL ZONE" BECAUSE HE REGARDED RETENTION OF AMERICAN SOVEREIGNTY AND CONTROL OF THE ZONE AS ESSENTIAL TO THIS COUNTRY'S NAVAL AND COMMERCIAL SHIPPING OPERATIONS.

11. THIRTY-ONE OF THE ORIGINAL SUPPORTERS OF THE 1975

THURMOND RESOLUTION REMAIN IN THE SENATE. IF THEY WERE TO REMAIN SOLIDLY OPPOSED TO THE NEW TREATY AND WERE JOINED BY AS FEW AS THREE OF THE NEW MEMBERS OF THE SENATE, THEY COULD BLOCK THE TREATY'S RATIFICATION. ALTHOUGH WHITE HOUSE OFFICIALS MAINTAIN THEY "HAVE A SHOT" AT WINNING OVER SIX OR MORE OF THIS GROUP, MORE THAN ONE ADMINISTRATION OFFICIAL CONCEDED PRIVATELY, "IT'S GOING TO BE A ROUGH ROW TO HOE."

12. BECAUSE THE OPPOSITION IN THE SENATE TO THE CANAL TREATY COMES FROM FOREIGN-POLICY CONSERVATIVES, BOTH DEMOCRATS AND REPUBLICANS, A KEY WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID THAT THE ADMINISTRATION SEES THE BATTLE OVER THE CANAL AGREEMENT "AS AN EARLY, CLEAR-CUT TEST" FOR OTHER KEY UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 STATE 191362 TOSEC 080339

FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES, SUCH AS A NEW ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENT WITH THE SOVIET UNION. FOR THAT REASON, THE ADMINISTRATION IS BENDING EVERY EFFORT TO WIN RATIFICATION FOR THE CANAL TREATY.

13. THE WHITE HOUSE HAS SET UP A SPECIAL POLITICAL TASK FORCE UNDER HAMILTON JORDAN, THE PRESIDENT'S FORMER CAMPAIGN MANAGER AND HIS CLOSEST POLITICAL LIEUTENANT, TO CONDUCT A POLITICAL CAMPAIGN IN WHAT IT REGARDS AS SWING STATES TO WIN PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR THE NEW TREATY AND THEREBY GAIN THE CRITICAL SENATE VOTES NEEDED FOR RATIFICATION.

14. THE MAIN TARGET AREAS, A SENIOR WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL SAID, ARE THE SUNBELT STATES OF THE SOUTH, SOUTHWEST AND FAR WEST WHERE THE BULK OF SENATORIAL OPPOSITION IS CONCENTRATED AND WHERE FORMER GOV. RONALD REAGAN OF CALIFORNIA WAS ABLE TO EXPLOIT THE PANAMA ISSUE EFFECTIVELY IN HIS CAMPAIGN FOR THE REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL NOMINATION LAST YEAR.

15. IN ANTICIPATION OF THE ADMINISTRATION'S ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT, SENATOR JESSE HELMS, A NORTH CAROLINA REPUBLICAN WHO VIGOROUSLY OPPOSES A NEW CANAL AGREEMENT, MADE PUBLIC THE RESULTS OF A NEW OPINION SURVEY SHOWING A STRONG CURRENT OF SUPPORT FOR RETENTION OF AMERICAN CONTROL OF THE CANAL.

16. THE SURVEY, IN WHICH THE OPINION RESEARCH CORPORATION OF PRINCETON, N.J., INTERVIEWED 1,011 ADULTS, SHOWED THAT 78 PERCENT FAVORED RETENTION OF CONTROL OVER THE CANAL, 8 PERCENT FAVORED TURNING IT OVER TO PANAMA AND 14 PERCENT HAD NO OPINION.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 05 STATE 191362 TOSEC 080339

17. WHITE HOUSE SOURCES SAID THAT KEY ADMINISTRATION OFFICIALS, INCLUDING THE TWO NEGOTIATORS, ELLSWORTH BUNKER AND SOL M. LINOWITZ, WOULD BE MAKING TELEVISION APPEARANCES SOON IN A CAMPAIGN OF "PUBLIC EDUCATION" TO BUILD SUPPORT FOR THE AGREEMENT.

18. BEYOND THAT, PRESIDENT CARTER MAY ALSO MAKE A NATION-WIDE TELEVISION ADDRESS AND POSSIBLY EVEN FLY TO PANAMA OR SOME NEUTRAL LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRY TO SIGN THE TREATY WHEN ALL THE DETAILS ARE WORKED OUT, ADMINISTRATION SOURCES SAID.

19. BUT AS ONE WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL CONCEDED, "AT THE MOMENT, WE ARE IN A SLIGHTLY AWKWARD SITUATION" BECAUSE BOTH HOUSES OF CONGRESS ARE IN RECESS AND THERE IS A NECESSARY GAP OF SEVERAL WEEKS BETWEEN THE CURRENT ANNOUNCEMENT OF AGREEMENT ON A TREATY WITH PANAMA AND THE CONCLUSION OF ALL THE LEGAL LANGUAGE. THIS MAKES IT DIFFICULT TO BUILD UP A SENSE OF MOMENTUM, THE OFFICIAL SAID.

20. BECAUSE THE SENATE LEADERSHIP HAS DECIDED TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO THE ADMINISTRATION'S ENERGY PROGRAM WHEN CONGRESS RETURNS AFTER LABOR DAY AND HAS PROMISED TO ADJOURN FOR THE YEAR IN OCTOBER, BOTH ADMINISTRATION AND SENATE SOURCES SAID TODAY THAT IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY WOULD BE PUT TO A VOTE BEFORE NEXT YEAR.

21. "IT'S HARD TO SEE HOW IT COULD BE COMPLETED BY OCTOBER," A WHITE HOUSE OFFICIAL REMARKED, "BUT IF THE SITUATION SUDDENLY GOT FAVORABLE, WE COULD SPEED IT UP."

22. THE BASIC EFFORT IN THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, ADMINISTRATION STRATEGISTS SAID, WOULD BE TO TRY TO SWING PUBLIC OPINION IN FAVOR OF THE TREATY. CHRISTOPHER

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TOSEC, PRESS COMMENTS, LOBBYING, AGREEMENTS, EXECUTIVE BRANCH, UPPER HOUSE, CANALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 12-Aug-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977STATE191362
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: M D ROKEY
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770291-0527
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770866/aaaacdng.tel
Line Count: 208
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1c3c755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN PA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15-Nov-2004 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1613667
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESS MATERIAL
TAGS: OVIP, SOPN, EWWT, PBOR, US, PN, NEW YORK TIMES, (VANCE, CYRUS R)
To: SECRETARY
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1c3c755b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009